

Recommended for Mature Readers

# EIGHTBALL

By DANIEL CLOWES

Number One

\$2.50  
\$2.50 IN CANADA



In this  
issue:

Like a  
Velvet  
Glove  
Cast in  
IRON



Lloyd Llewellyn

DEVIL  
DOLL?

By D.G.C.

Young Dan Pussey

FANTAGRAPHICS BOOKS

DANIEL CLOWES *presents*

# Eight+Ball

An Orgy of Spite, Vengeance, Hopelessness, Despair and Sexual Perversion

## Contents

Like A Velvet Glove Cast in Iron.....	1
DEVIL DOLL.....	14
The Laffin' Spittin' Man.....	17
YOUNG DAN PUSSEY.....	23
What is the Most Important Invention of the Twentieth Century?.....	Back Cover



### Special thanks, Important Facts and Embarrassing Admissions:

A ten-gallon tip of the hat to my pal Fred Alvingott for his help with "Young Dan Pussey" and "Devil Doll." He must be given full credit for such things as "Infinite Hombres," Dan Pussey's ring zipper and "Delta Tau Omega." Further thanks go to gagmeister Charlie Schneider, the real-life Laffin' Spittin' Man and to the lovely Mrs. Clowes for her help with the final chapter of "Like a Velvet Glove." The back-cover is one first of a series of past covers featuring material gleaned from Daniel Greenberger's incredible mag, DUPLEX PLANET (subscriptions: \$12 from PO BOX 1230, Saratoga Springs, NY, 12866) which features surreal, non-sequitur interviews with nursing-home patients. Read it or die!

WRITE TO: EIGHTBALL c/o DAN'L CLOWES 5545 WOODLAWN AVENUE  
CHICAGO, IL 60637 (LETTERS PAGE DEBUTS NEXT ISSUE)

# Like a VELVET GLOVE cast in IRON



*Daniel Agnew*





I haven't been in this place for a long time... smells like a 'winal mint.



My shoes are stuck to the floor... this place is really disgusting.



Look at these two would-be tough guys... I'd better try to look unapproachable or they might try to sell me drugs or something...



There's always a long line of guys waiting to get into the men's room... God knows what goes on in there...

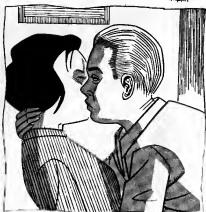


I wouldn't go in there for a million dollars.



My head is getting worse--  
I wonder what the second  
episode is-- I've probably  
seen it.

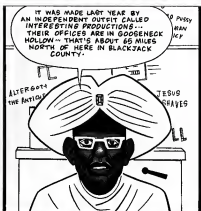












I'VE HAD SOME  
TROUBLE WITH MY  
EYES...

IT'S AN INFECTION  
OF THE EYE-SOCKETS...  
THE WAY THEY CURE  
IT IS TO REMOVE YOUR  
EYES AND FREEZE 'EM AND  
THEN THEY PUT THESE RARE  
ASIATIC SEA CRUSTACEANS IN  
THERE TO EAT OUT THE  
BACTERIA...



I HAVE TO LEAVE 'EM  
IN TILL FRIDAY... IF THESE  
GUYS DO THEIR JOB I  
MIGHT HAVE MY EYES  
BACK IN AS SOON  
AS MONDAY...



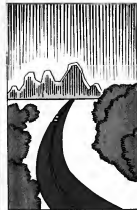
LOOK, I KNOW YOU  
DIDN'T COME HERE TO  
HEAR ME COMPLAIN...  
YOU PROBABLY  
HAVE THINGS TO DO...

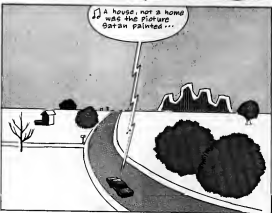
HERE'S THE  
KEYS... IT'S PARKED  
IN THE WALKER  
ALLEY UNDERGROUND  
LOT...



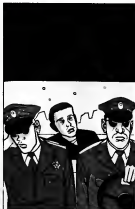
IT'S NOT LIKE I DO MUCH  
DRIVING IN MY CONDITION  
ANYWAY, MAN...



















**6★☆☆** I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO HER WITH ALL THOSE TART CARDS AND HEAVY-METAL MUSIC AND OCCULT JEWELRY... WE TRIED TO RAISE HER IN A HOME THAT STRESSED STRONG MORAL VALUES BUT I GUESS SHE'S JUST A BAD APPLE!



HAHMM... MARGARET WON'T BE HOME FOR A FEW HOURS... I HAVEN'T WATCHED THIS ONE IN A LONG TIME...

X UPGRADE TRAILER TRAMP	
X ACID OREY BREAKFAST	X LICK ME ALL OVER... TINA
X ONE - DURING IN HEAT	X BUTTERSTICK
THE SENSUAL SLIP SAND	X PEEP-SHOW NOSEDOWN
XXX PLAYGROUND SLUT	X ONE-NALE ATTEMPT
X NAZI-LEGG LICK-TEST	XXX THE BLISS CAGONE



I'VE GOT TO TALK TO PAT... IT BOTHERS ME THE WAY SHE'S BEEN ACTING...



I'LL TALK TO HER LATER... FIRST, I'VE GOT **MY NEEDS** TO THINK OF!



WHAT DO YOU THINK PAT? I THINK IT LOOKS **6★☆☆** RADICAL!

YOU'RE ONE OF US NOW, PAT... THERE'S NO TURNING BACK!



THE MORE I LEARN ABOUT WITCHCRAFT AND THE OCCULT THE MORE POWERFUL I FEEL! **NAIL SATAN!**

COME BACK AROUND MID-NIGHT, PAT... WE'RE HAVING A BLOOD-LEGG SACRIFICE IN THE BASEMENT!



BEFORE YOU LEAVE, HELP YOURSELF TO COCAINE, PILLS, HEROIN OR ANGEL DUST (PCP) IN THE OTHER ROOM!

I'LL TRY ANYTHING ONCE! **HAW HAW!**



...TOOK TOO MANY DRUGS... FEEL SICK... OOH...

PAT! PAT!



WHO THE **6★☆☆**?

HELLO PAT... IT'S ME... GREG! I'VE BEEN PRAYING AND FASTING FOR YOU!



YOU'RE FIGHTING A BATTLE YOU CAN'T WIN! SATAN IS A LOSER WHO WANTS TO TAKE AS MANY SOULS WITH HIM AS HE CAN! IT'S ALL IN HERE...

**BAARRRRF** ...IN WHAT? THE **6★☆☆** BIBLE?!



THIS ONE FORETELLS THE COMING TRIBULATION IN WHICH EVERY MAN AND WOMAN WILL BE IMPRINTED WITH A COMPUTER VPC CODE ON THEIR FOREHEAD AND THE SUPREMACY, RUN BY THE POPE (WHO IS THE ANTICHRIST,) WILL FORCE THE USA (WHICH WILL AT THIS POINT BE A CASHLESS SOCIETY) INTO A BLOODY WAR WITH...

HEY!



HEY PAT! YOU WANT US TO GET RID OF THIS CREEP?!

DOES A BEAR **6★☆☆** IN THE WOODS?!



# THE LAFFIN' SPITTIN' MAN















PROLOGUE



# Young Dan Pusssey

by DANIEL CLOWES



"It was Doctor Infinity who discovered me. The six of us first met in the Infinity loft 1200 years ago. He let us stay there since we were all from out of town except for Jackie. In fact, he MADE us stay there... Everything I know about comics I learned from the Doctor... He's a giant in the business..."

GENTLEMEN! I AM DOCTOR INFINITY and with you I stand on the threshold of a new GOLDEN AGE...

We may think of those surroundings as less than REMARKABLE... of our beginnings as decidedly HUMBLE...



...BUT MARK MY WORDS, Gentlemen... Future historians will one day look to this room as the place where it all began... The birthplace of THE INFINITY COMICS GROUP!!



You are my hand-picked ones- the INFINITY BULLPEN... A nucleus of the FINEST young, raw, undiscovered talents of your generation...

Pick Small,  
fence-seller...



"Toothbrush"  
Pickuda, inkster...



Chis Duendorf,  
letterer...



Helmut Grucker,  
inkster...



Jackie Roth,  
writer...



and Dan Patsy,  
penciller...



You gentlemen will get to know each other well... You will LIVE together, WORK together, CREATE together and SHARE together the wealth and glory that will one day be yours!



LOOK NOW AT THE BOARD! These are our SIX Flagship titles! THE ARMY-BOTS, INFINITY HOMBRE, MUSCLE-MASTER, THE 10-YEAR ROBOT WAR, NEW AGE KRYSTYL and MARIONETTE SQUAD! They will set the standard by which we and others will follow. They will one day be read in classrooms and quoted by scholars!





Get a MOVE ON, boys! Breakfast is ready!

Pages are waiting to be PENCILLED, WRITTEN AND INKED!

...Not to mention LETTERED. Mr. DUCHENOTÉ!



EAT HEARTY, gentlemen! Breakfast is the MOST IMPORTANT meal of the day!



... Before we begin today, I'd like for you boys to ask yourselves something: Am I producing up to my capabilities? Remember each of you is part of a TEAM ... you can't win a RELAY RACE when one of the runners is merely JOGGING ... You may now lift your pencils.



Idealize, Dan Pussboy. IDEALIZE! These are not mere men ... they are SUPER-CHAMPIONS!



The toothbrush is your own unique voice, Mr. Pussboy. You must MAKE IT SING!



This character's action doesn't seem REAL, Mr. Roth ... What has MOTIVATED Pussboy to join the Marienotte Squad?



You're making progress, Mr. Pussboy ... I'll make an inkler out of you yet!



I leave you to your work, gentlemen ... I must attend a meeting with some potential advertisers. I'll be back shortly ...





There are NO VACATIONS in this business! When the first issue is finished we begin on the second!

I thought we were supposed to be paid after the first issue.



I HEARD THAT, MR. PUSSEY! You have been given the privilege to work in your chosen field as a RESPECTED PROFESSIONAL-- I suggest you begin to ACT LIKE ONE! Was Rembrandt concerned with a "page rate?" Or Van Gogh?



You will be paid after publication like everyone else, Mr. Pussey --but your attitude GREATLY disturbs me! I've been in this business since its infancy! I remember well working in the comic shops of the 1930's and '40's... THERE WERE GIANTS IN THOSE DAYS!



Hey Doctor... Did you ever work with Wood? or Bigner?



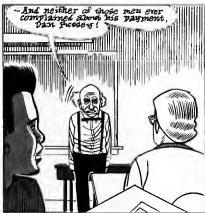
Of course! Both were highly skilled, but they rank far beneath the TRUE greats!



"Have you gentlemen ever heard of HAL ACKER?" ...or CRANK GILL?



ACKER could finish ten pages in one afternoon -- pencil and ink... MORE it there was a deadline! And for many years CRANK GILL was the best writer in the field. Never turned in a script late-- even on his DEATHBED!



~And neither of those men ever complained about his payment, Dan Pussey!



Comic  
books...

By their nature they are both our most INTIMATE and our most EXPRESSIVE artform. Comic books reflect a more personal viewpoint than movies or television. Their subject matter is ESSENTIALLY LIMITLESS!

They have a potential that has thusfar only been scratched... but we in this room are the forefront of a new generation of 'SCRATCHERS!' With a mixture of youthful exuberance and raw ability we lead the ranks of those who know fantasy to be the GREATEST REALM OF ALL!

What have you got there, Doctor?

A little surprise, Mr. Pineda...

I've just returned from the printer with advance copies of our DEBUT TITLE...

**NOT OFF THE PRESSES, Gentlemen!**

Come forward and accept your contributors' copies! Look upon the cover of this, the first issue of THE ARMY-BOTS and know that THE INFINITY ERA NOW BEGINS!



Listen to THIS: "Pan Pineda's wandering on Infinity's borders is above par. Infinity was lucky to find this talented newcomer." Hmm...where DID they find you, pussy?

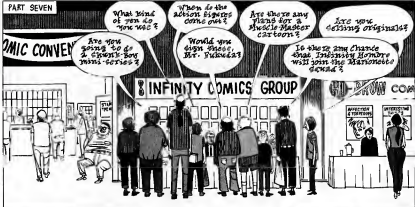
I answered an ad in The Comics Trader and Dr. Infinity called me and asked a bunch of questions and that was it. I never even showed him any samples!

Yeah, me neither... I figure he must have seen my devil on kumono.

Exactly.







Hey Dan... Dan Beppo. I'm Vin's brother! We had artwork in a lot of the same fanzines before you turned pro... I met you over at Bruce Gallery's house once...



Yeah sure... What are you up to now? You want me to sign these?



Yeah, thanks... I'm trying to break into the field myself! We should get together sometime... I'd like to show you my latest stuff!

It's two dollars apiece for signing... What did you call your name was?



... I'd say the con had been a rousing success! We've had a good-size herd of FANBOYS grazing around the Infinity table all day long! There was one tragic specimen who was so BULL-WITTED that he brought...



Excuse me, Dr. Infinity... I'm Herm Yunik, the editor of Comic Meat magazine. I'd like to talk to you for just a moment if I could...

MR. YUNIK! So nice to see you! Yes, of course! Let's go over here, shall we...



I've got something for you, Herm...

I thought you might.



Here...I'm paying in advance for next month's Infinity Ad... I hope you like our upcoming books.



Oh, I will Doctor... HONESTLY! And by the way... I've asked one of my boys to interview your hot-shot young penciler for a cover feature!



We can use it the week... Oh... after... the, oh... issue after... ah...

Will you excuse me, Doctor?

Of course!



Oh GOD how I love superheroes!

COMIC CONVENTION  
COSTUME PARADE



Okay... I think I've finally got this thing working... Now -- you were talking about how it felt to be a professional in the comic industry...



Yeah... It's a great feeling being on the other side of the table... I feel like the luckiest guy in the world... here I am doing exactly what I want and getting paid for it...



...But there's also a lot of pressure... It's like Dr. Infinity said-- Civilizations are judged by the myths and legends they leave behind... We at this table are today's myth-makers... That's quite a burden!



"I don't know... I imagine I'll be dead a long time before my comics are studied in classrooms. I can't think about the future and stuff like that or I'll lose sight of the present."

Today is a very good time to be Dan Fudley.



THE END.

I wasn't sure I wanted the job that badly. Big Jim made me nervous.

"Alright kid, what can y'do for me? Y'ever done any hosedown work ... like sprayin' vomit offa Carnival rides, maybe?"

"Sure," I lied. "I've worked hosedown..."

"I could use a new clean-ky man ... just on weekends and some nights."

"Great." Actually I'd hoped for more of a nine-to-five kind of thing.

"Pay is four dollars an hour ... two in cash and two in peep-show tokens."



Excerpted from the novel *Two in Room*  
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Ooh  
La La!

*The Kind  
Men Like!*



# WHAT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT INVENTION OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY?

Manicures?



The space van.



The faucet is quite an invention. It controls the water supply.



What about false fingernails. You know, I've seen people use false fingernails before and you've seen 'em too. I looked at 'em like they were crazy.



They land on those planets now and the people are amazed we have such far-reaching policies.



How about refrigeration?

